Claims:

1. A method of reducing wear in a cutting head of a tunnel boring machine, by means of the addition at the cutting head of a foamed aqueous liquid composition, which comprises a foaming agent and a lubricant, the lubricant being selected from the group consisting of high molecular weight polyethylene oxides and bentonite.

2. A method according to claim1, in which the individual ingredients of the foaming composition are metered in individual aqueous form into water and are converted to foam.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the foaming agent is selected from anionic and nonionic surfactants.

4. A method according to claim 1, in which the composition is supplied as a concentrate, which is diluted with water in situ, to provide the foaming composition.

5. A wear-reducing foamable liquid concentrate, consisting of at least one lubricant selected from high molecular weight polyethylene oxide and bentonite and at least one foaming agent which gives rise to short-lived foams, optionally also containing at least one sequestering agent and at least one foam booster, the quantities present being respectively:

(a) in the case of polyethylene oxide as lubricant:

0.1-3% polyethylene oxide;
2-40% foaming agent;
up to 5% sequestering agent; and
up to 1% foam booster;

and (b) in the case of bentonite as the lubricant:

2-30% bentonite; and
2-40% foaming agent;

by weight of liquid composition, the remainder being water.

6. A wear-reducing foamed liquid consisting of a concentrate according to claim 8 diluted in from 1-20 volumes of water and foamed to give a volume expansion of from 5 – 40 times.